

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics (“Board”) met in-person to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair
Steven Hausman, Member
Jeffrey Hysen, Member
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member (virtually).

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer
Russel Beers, Legal Counsel to the Board
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Open Session

Approval of Open Session Minutes – December 14, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Open Session Minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the December Open Session Minutes.

Matters of Discussion

Ethics Program Monthly Report

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for December 2022. She reported that she provided ethics training to 5 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 20 matters, of which the leading categories were Disclosure Statements and Soliciting or Acceptance of Gifts. Dr. Hausman asked what type of gifts employees have received. Ms. Dorsey White replied that most often it is perishable food. She added that a letter is sent to the gift-giver explaining the Code of Ethics provisions related to acceptance of gifts.

Ms. Dorsey White also informed the Board that 96% of employees completed the annual mandatory ethics training last calendar year. To date, approximately 50 employees have not completed the ethics training. Chair Pruden asked what is being done to encourage those staff to comply. Ms. Dorsey White stated that she continues to work with managers.

Live Streaming Board of Ethics Meetings

Mr. Beers shared that a Montgomery County official inquired as to why the Board of Ethics meetings are not live streamed. Mr. Beers stated that the Maryland Open Meetings Act does not require live streaming. However, to comply with the request, he is working internally on a streaming solution that does not rely on Granicus. He will bring recommendations to the Board at a future meeting.

Informational Items

Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)

Ms. Allen reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

Closed Session Approval

At 1:39 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session to approve December 14, 2022 Closed Session Minutes and pursuant to General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13) and WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.110 to address three Complaints; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding three Complaints and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

Attendees: Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman; Member Jeffrey Hysen; and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Legal Counsel to the Board Russel Beers; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Investigative Counsel Darryl McCallum.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes – December 14, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft Closed Session Minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the December Closed Session Minutes.

Complaint C-22-06

Retained Investigative Counsel Darryl McCallum joined the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Mr. McCallum provided an update on this investigation.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this case pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(e).

Complaint C-22-07

Mr. McCallum provided an update on this investigation.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to dismiss this case pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(e).

Mr. McCallum left the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Complaint C-22-08

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to postpone the hearing on this case.

Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations

Potential Complaint #1

The Board considered information discovered during the course of an investigation and determined that it indicated that a person who was not the Respondent had violated the Code.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to file a complaint on its own motion pursuant to WSSC Code of Ethics Ch. 1.70.080(b) for violation of Code Chs. 1.70.110 and 1.70.210.

Legal Investigations

Mr. Beers provided updates on current legal investigations.

Adjournment

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelique Dorsey White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Angelique Dorsey White, Esq.
Ethics Officer